



# The Town of Barnstable

## Comprehensive Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC)

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### CFAC Committee:

#### Chairman:

John Curtis, Chair

#### Members:

Bill Brower  
Robert Ciolek  
Laura Cronin  
Stanley Hodkinson  
Ralph Krau  
Tom Michael  
Jim Sproul

#### Staff Liaison:

Mark Milne

#### Councilor Liaison:

Richard Barry

### CFAC MEETING MINUTES

4.27.09

7:00 PM

Growth Management Conference Room

CFAC Members Present: Bill Brower, Robert Ciolek, John Curtis, Stanley Hodkinson, Jim Sproul, Ralph Krau

CFAC Members Absent: Laura Cronin, Tom Michael

Councilors Present: None

Staff Present: Mark Milne - Finance Director, Dr. Patricia Grenier - Superintendent of Schools, Deb Childs - Finance/Budget Analyst

#### 1. Call to Order

Upon a quorum duly present, John Curtis called the CFAC meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Growth Management Conference Room.

#### 2. Act on Minutes

Motion made and seconded to accept minutes of 04.13.09.

**Vote: Unanimous**

#### 3. Chairman's Comments

John C. made note that he had the reappointment papers for Stan H. Laura C. and himself to be signed and returned to the appointments committee.

#### 4. Staff & Councilor Comments

Mark M. reminded the committee that the "State of the Town" address is occurring this Thursday evening at the Barnstable High School and all are welcome to attend. He also stated the FY10 Operating Budget would be presented to the Town Council on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Mark will have copies of that available for the committee the following day.

Mark thanked Laura C. and Bill B. for their attendance at the FY10 CIP presentation to Town Council. The FY10 CIP plan was passed by the Council.

## 5. New Business

Review and discussion of School FY10 Department Budget-

Dr. Grenier joined the meeting to answer questions from the committee pertaining to the FY10 School Department Budget.

Bob C. had provided a list of questions in advance. Dr. Grenier went through these one by one:

1. Is there a proposed plan for the re-use or sale of closed school buildings and land?

The School Committee is reviewing this at this time. There are no immediate plans. One potential option is to determine the buildings as "surplus" and return them to the Town as Municipal property. The Town would then be responsible for the buildings and any associated costs.

The School Facility Advisory Committee is set to meet Monday, May 4th to review and provide a recommendation to the School Committee. It will be Dr. Grenier's recommendation to the committee that two buildings be declared surplus and one be held back.

2. What is the projected annual cost of maintaining the closed school buildings? Is there any consideration being given to contract out building maintenance and security for closed school buildings?

Once closed, the buildings would be "winterized" so that all utilities are discontinued and costs would be minimal. The main cost would be in insuring the buildings. A vacant building is more costly to insure.

3. Is there any outstanding debt associated with any of the closed school buildings or facilities?

Osterville and Osterville Bay had recent boiler replacements (one was an emergency repair) that carried a five year bond note. Otherwise there is no outstanding debt associated with the buildings.

4. As additional information is known with respect to the various education items contained in the ARRA legislation, what is the projected impact of additional federal funding on the FY10 operating budget? What is the projected impact of ARRA funding in the out years? Will any of this funding expect to supplant town funding for FY10 and if so, what is the projected amount?

Dr. Grenier reviewed the three main areas, amounts Barnstable could receive and the restrictions on use.

Stabilization fund - Barnstable will receive no money under this program.

IDEA Grant - Approx. \$673,000 1st year and close amount 2nd year. Fifty percent can be used for maintenance of effort. The remainder needs to be for new expenses.

Title I - \$291,000 that must be used for new expenses. The superintendent would like to focus some of these funds on coaching and staff professional development.

5. If the Commonwealth's budget for FY10 contains education assistance roughly equal to the amounts contained in the House version of the state budget, what impact will that have on the proposed school budget? Are there contingency plans for further reductions in the proposed budget if the state further reduces local aid?

The House Budget is anticipated to decrease the education assistance by \$250,000. The above IDEA money that could be used for maintenance of effort would be used to offset that decrease.

6. In the enrollment study performed by STV Incorporated, the firm projected a total enrollment of 5,292 pupils for 2009 and 5,128 pupils for 2010. Do you concur? If your budget projections differ, by how much do they differ and what accounts for the difference? [Note: for FY08 total pupil count was projected to be 6,059; for FY09 the projection was 5,683 - both inclusive of Horace Mann headcount. In addition, in school produced document, the headcount for the system was 5,714 as of April 1, 2009].

Dr. Grenier agrees the enrollment will continue to drop but not at the levels reported in the study.

7. The FY08 budget projected school staffing at 903.54 FTE's; the FY09 budget projected staffing for the school system to be 891.38 FTE's. What is the assumed FTE staffing level in the proposed FY10 operating budget?

Approximately 811 FTE's.

8. Are "actual" for FY09 available for review? If so, through what date?

Yes, Dr. Grenier will forward that information. Bill B. requested a report of the requested FY10 budget by object code of expenditure and asked that it include the FY08 actual and the FY09 YTD actual + projected remainder of FY09. Mark M. responded that the finance department would work to provide that report.

9. There is a line item for \$329,386.00 for SPED Transportation to Cape Cod Collective, formerly found in the SPED budget category. What is the purpose of this item? Why the change in budget location? Why the significant increase compared to this year?

The line item was changed to create greater awareness and accountability by the transportation area. The increases can be attributed to changes in school location for students, increased number of homeless students requiring transportation to their "home" school, and increased fuel costs.

10. What accounts for the large increase in "Student Services TA" line item? See 2940, first line.

The district budget was consolidated in one line until the school redistricting is completed. After that, the budget will be accurately reflected under the school site.

11. There appears to be a significant reduction in budgeting for "sick leave buyback". Why would the total amount decrease? How much management discretion is involved in terms of the buy-back decision? If the answer is "none" why not accumulate the total amount in the administration budget?

The reduction can be attributed to a decrease in retirements. This is an incentive for the retiree to notify the school administration of their intent to retire. Site based management and the consideration of equitable budgets for the charter schools require the items to be detailed and not lumped in one area.

Jim S. inquired if the superintendent would share her philosophy on site based management and if she felt it was helping the town in the running of the school system.

Dr. Grenier is a proponent of site based management. The theory being that the more site based decision capability will lead to more positive educational experiences for the students. However, she feels there is so little discretionary funding that it

prevents sites from having the ability to make these decisions. All decisions this year were collaborative and central office was more involved.

Jim S. commented in "good times" it could be used as a measure for the principals.

Ralph K. inquired about the number of students that will be attending the Charter school at its new location in Hyannis. Dr. Grenier responded they received 177 applications for 110 positions. 95 % of the lottery applicants were from the Hyannis area. The school population will be 1/3 Hyannis area and 2/3 other locations.

Jim S. inquired about how the increasing class sizes may impact MCAS scores.

Dr. Grenier responded that studies show in a class size between 14-24 there is no difference in academic data. She has concern for the students in K-3 who will require remedial help for Math and Reading. It is critical for students to become proficient readers by Grade 2.

Jim S. thanked Bob C. for formalizing his questions, they led to good discussion.

Jim S. inquired of Mark M. how the municipal side is fairing. Mark indicated the municipal side is not as dependant on state aid. There are cuts being made in FY2010 and FY2011 may present similar issues. There would be concern is cuts were not made proportionately.

Bob C. inquired about excise taxes and potential abatements for property taxes.

Mark responded that excise tax revenue is showing a decline from prior years. The assessor is working on insuring properties are reflected for the accurate value to prevent abatements.

Discuss if CFAC meetings should be televised-

Bill B. questions if quests candor may be impacted by being televised.

Ralph K. and Jim S. thought it may generate some "PR" for the committee and the issues discussed.

Televising the meetings would require a change of date and time and would hinder some members ability to participate.

Motion made and seconded to NOT televise the CFAC meetings.

Vote: 5 in Favor, 1 Against

6. Discussions - None

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday May 4th, 2009 in the Growth Management conference room.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.